

audience, programs of said sequence of network programs having a duration shorter than or equal to individual ones of said time slots, said network programs including tasks to be performed by the members of the audience;

means at said broadcast stations for selecting individual ones of said network programs to be interspersed among successive ones of said local program segments for broadcast to said audience;

means at each of said receiving stations for enabling the members of the audience to enter a response to said tasks;

means for providing an instructional signal including response criteria to enable evaluation of responses of the members of the audience;

means for evaluating the responses of the members of the audience in accordance with the response criteria to identify individual members of the audience who have entered acceptable responses;

a station for designating a winner among the members of the audience who have entered [an] acceptable [response] responses; and

wherein said response criteria have been established prior to entry of the responses by the members of the audience, said evaluating means includes means for altering a mode of evaluation in response to said instructional signal, and wherein said instructional signal can be generated to activate said altering means of said evaluation means independently of a communication of said sequence of network programs.

Claim 2, line 3, before "responses" insert --the--.

Claim 2, line 3, before "members" insert --the--.

Claim 3, line 1, change "Claim 2" to -- Claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 3, before "response" insert-- the--.

C 9. (Amended) A system according to Claim 8 wherein each of said evaluating means includes means for storing the response criteria, and means for comparing ^{the} an entered response with an acceptable one of said [response] responses.

B2 10. (Amended) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said transmitting means includes a base station for transmitting the network programs and a communication means coupling said base station to said broadcast stations, said [criteria] instructional signal-providing means being located at said base station for transmission of [the] a scoring criteria via said communication means to said broadcast stations, said broadcast stations transmitting said response criteria to said receiving stations for use by said evaluating means.

Claim 12, line 2, before "program" insert--network--.

Claim 13, line 3, before "network" insert--the--.

Claim 15, line 4, before "response" insert-- the--.

Claim 17, line 2 Change "criteria" to --instructional signal--.

Claim 17, line 5, before "response" insert-- the--.

In Claim 18 at Line 4, before "acceptable" insert-- the--.

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360 23. A system according to Claim 21 wherein each of said evaluating means includes means for storing the response criteria, and means for comparing [an] the entered response with an acceptable one of said [response] responses.

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24. (Amended) A system according to Claim 23 wherein transmitting means includes a base station for transmitting the network programs and a communication means coupling said base station to said broadcast stations, said instructional signal includes scoring criteria, said instructional signal-providing [criteria-providing] means being located at said base station for transmission of the scoring criteria via said communication means to said broadcast stations, said broadcast stations transmitting said response criteria to said receiving stations for use by said evaluating means, said [network] communication means communicating said instructional signal from said base station[s] to said broadcast stations for transmission to said receiving stations.

[Claim 26, line 2, before "program" insert --network--.

Claim 27, line 3, before "network" insert --the--.

Claim 29, line 4, before "response" insert --the--.

32. (Amended) A system for eliciting responses from members of a broadcast audience comprising:

a plurality of broadcast stations including means at individual ones of said broadcast stations for transmitting a sequence of local [program] programs or segments of the local programs;

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a multiplicity of receiving stations for receiving the local programs from said broadcast stations and for presenting said local programs to the members of the broadcast audience;

means for providing a sequence of network programs to each of said broadcast stations, each of said network programs including a task to be performed by the members of the audience;

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means at each of said broadcast stations for inserting a network program of said sequence of network programs between the segments of said local programs;

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means at each of said receiving stations for enabling the members of the audience to enter a response to [a task] the task provided by ~~the~~ a network program;

means for providing a response criteria to enable evaluation of responses of the members of the audience;

means employing said response criteria for evaluating the responses of the members of the audience in accordance with the response criteria to identify individual members of the audience who have entered an acceptable response; and

a station for designating a winner among the members of the audience who have entered [an] the acceptable response.

[Claim 33, line 4, before "local" insert --the--.

Claim 34, line 2, change "said" to --a--.

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35. (Amended) A system according to Claim 33 wherein [said] a concurrent transmission of said local and said network programs is accomplished by transmitting said local and said network programs via a television transmission, and by providing at least a portion of ^{the} a network program in split-screen format with at least a portion of a local program.

[Claim 37, line 6, change "said" to --a--.

38. (Amended) A method for eliciting responses from members of a broadcast audience comprising:

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broadcasting from each of a plurality of broadcast stations, distant from each other, a set of local programs;

receiving said local programs at a multiplicity of receiving stations by members of [a] the broadcast audience;

providing said broadcast stations with a sequence of network programs, said network programs including tasks to be performed by members of the audience;

selecting, at individual ones of said broadcast stations, a network program from said sequence of network programs to be interspersed between successive programs or successive segments of a program in the [sets] set of local programs;

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interspersing a selected network program among successive local programs or successive segments of a local program broadcast from an individual one of said broadcast stations;

enabling members of the audience to enter responses to a task of [a] one of said network [program] programs;

providing apparatus for evaluating a response of a member of the audience;

generating an instructional signal including response criteria for use by said evaluating apparatus in evaluating the responses of audience members to determine the presence of a correct response;

providing a station for selection of a winner among members of the audience who have entered [a] correct [response] responses; and

communicating identities of members of the audience who have entered correct responses to said winner-selection station.

39. (Amended) A method according to Claim 38 wherein said response criteria have been established prior to entry of the responses by members of the audience, said evaluating [means] apparatus includes means for altering a mode of evaluation in response to said instructional signal, and the method further comprises a step of employing said instructional signal [can be generated to activate] for activating said altering means of said evaluation means independently of the providing of said sequence of network programs.

42. (Amended) A method according to Claim 41 wherein said step of providing the sequence of network programs further comprises a step of positing copies of the network-program recording at various ones of said broadcast stations for synchronized playback of the copies of the network-program [recordings] recording at said plurality of broadcast stations.

49. (Amended) A method according to Claim 38 wherein said step of interspersing is accomplished by separating successive ones of said local programs or segments of said local programs by [timing] time slots, and inserting a network program in one of the time [slot] slots.

Claim 51, line 2, before "network" insert --a--.

Claim 51, line 2, change "program" to --programs--.

Claim 54, line 14, after "answers" insert --submitted--.

57. (Amended) A method for generating very large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

providing a first electronic signal transmitting system comprising a network of stations broadcasting programs to members of the audiences, said stations broadcasting their individually

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scheduled programs, said stations being equipped to receive and retransmit quiz signals to members of the audiences;

providing a second electronic signal transmitting system for transmitting quiz signals to said stations, a quiz comprising a task, and response criteria accompanying said task defining at least one acceptable response;

formulating at a central location at least one quiz;

transmitting by said second system at least one quiz to said stations, said stations receiving at least one quiz;

retransmitting by a network station a quiz to members of its audience;

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providing a response unit with response-entering means to individual members of said audiences, said response unit being capable of receiving and storing response criteria signals, said response unit being capable of evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria and determining an acceptable response;

entering a response to a quiz by a [members] member of said audiences;

evaluating a member's response by the member's response unit to determine an acceptable response;

providing means at a central location for identifying a member having entered an acceptable response;

providing means at said central location for receiving responses and for storing accepted responses by members of said audiences [in] for a sweepstakes pool;

conveying accepted responses by identified audience members to said sweepstakes pool;

storing identifications of said identified audience members in said sweepstakes pool;

providing means at a central location for determining at least one winner from among said identified audience members entered in said sweepstakes pool; and

informing said winner of said determination.

58. (Amended) A method for generating large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

organizing a plurality of broadcast stations, including television and/or radio stations, to create a broadcast network;

providing at least one central facility for transmitting electronic signals to said broadcast stations;

providing at said broadcast stations means to receive and to rebroadcast electronic signals received from a central location;

broadcasting by said stations their regularly scheduled and disparate programs to members of a remote broadcast audience;

receiving said programs by members of the remote audience;

formulating a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising signals conveying a task, including a question, a task set including also response criteria defining at least one acceptable response including an answer and instructions for

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scoring acceptable responses;

providing response units to individual members of said audience, a response unit comprising means for entering a response to a task by an audience member and means for receiving response criteria signals, said response unit further comprising means for identifying and scoring acceptable responses by individual audience members;

providing means for informing a winning audience member of an acceptable scored response;

sequentially transmitting by at least one of said central facilities signals conveying a plurality of task sets to said broadcast stations;

receiving task set signals at said broadcast stations;

interrupting programs of individual ones of said broadcast stations to create a time gap between program segments;

rebroadcasting a task set by an individual one of said broadcast stations during said station's time gap;

receiving during a station's time gap, by an audience member, [the station's rebroadcast] signals rebroadcast by one of said broadcast stations and conveying a task set;

entering [a] responses to a task by individual ones of said audience members via the response units;

identifying, by said response units, acceptable responses entered by individual audience members;

storing acceptable responses by means of said response units;

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entering acceptable response in a prize event;

informing winning audience members of entrance of an acceptable response in a prize event.

59. (Amended) A method for generating large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

providing a first electronic signal transmitting system comprising a network of stations broadcasting programs to members of a remote audience, said station broadcasting their individually scheduled programs;

providing second electronic signal transmitting means for transmitting a quiz to said network stations, said stations being equipped to receive and to transmit said quiz signals to members of the remote audience, a quiz comprising a task and response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

formulating at a central location at least one quiz;

transmitting at least one quiz to said network stations;

receiving at least one quiz at said network station;

retransmitting a quiz, by said remote network stations, to members of said audience at [a point] points in time determined by individual ones of said network stations, which points in time can vary between stations;

providing to individual members of said remote audience response units for receiving and for storing response criteria signals, and for entering a response to a quiz by a member of said remote audience, each of said response units evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria, said response

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units identifying a member of the remote audience having entered an acceptable response;

entering a response, by a member of the remote audience, to a quiz;

evaluating the member's response by a member's response unit;

providing data storage means at a central location;

providing a sweepstakes facility at a central location;

providing a communications link between said response units, said storage means and said sweepstakes facility;

conveying [conveying] identifications of identified audience members to said storage means;

conveying identifications of identified audience members to said sweepstakes facility;

determining at least one sweepstakes winner from among identified audience members; and

informing said winner of a determination.

60. (Amended) A method for attracting large broadcast audiences to individual stations in a network of stations by entering successful respondents to a task in a sweepstakes or prize event, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a network composed of a multiplicity of TV and/or radio stations concurrently broadcasting scheduled and at least partially disparate programs, each of the stations of said network broadcasting its program to members of its

audience;

broadcasting a plurality of task sets from a central location,
[a] each of said task sets comprising a task and accompanying
response criteria defining an acceptable response to the task;

receiving said task sets at said network stations and
selecting, at individual ones of said network stations, a
task set for retransmission at a time fitting into [its] the
program structure of each of said individual ones of said
network stations;

retransmitting via a network station a selected task set;

receiving [a] said selected task set by members of the
audience of a network station;

providing to each audience member a response unit identified
with said audience member, a response unit comprising means
for receiving and for storing response criteria, means for
entering a response to a task, means for comparing an entered
response to a task to accompanying response criteria, and
means for determining whether an entered response is an
acceptable response;

entering a response to a task [in] of said selected task set
by a response unit, said entering step being accomplished by
a member of the audience of a network station desiring to be
a respondent;

determining by a response unit whether a respondent's entered
response is an acceptable response;

providing a central sweepstakes or prize event facility;

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providing a communications link between said response unit and said sweepstakes or prize event facility for conveying the identity of a respondent having successfully responded to a task to said sweepstakes or prize event facility; and

entering a successful respondent in a sweepstakes or prize event.

61. (Amended) A method for generating a large advertising market, including the combined audiences of a multiplicity of broadcasting stations, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a network composed of a multiplicity of TV and/or radio stations concurrently broadcasting their scheduled and at least partially disparate programs having different program structures;

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broadcasting, via individual ones of said [network] stations of said network, their respective programs to members of said combined audiences, said network stations broadcasting advertising and/or promotional messages interspersed in their respective programs;

broadcasting a plurality of task sets from a central location, a task set comprising a task and accompanying response criteria defining an acceptable response to a task;

receiving said task sets at said network stations;

selecting, at respective ones of said network stations, at least one task set for retransmission at times fitting into program structures of respective ones of said network stations;

retransmitting selected task sets by respective ones of said

network stations;

receiving [a] an individual one of said at least one task set by each of a plurality of response units located at locations of members of said audiences, wherein an individual one of said response units comprises means for entering a response to a task, and comparison means for determining whether an entered response is an acceptable response;

entering a response to a task by a member of said combined audiences by use of one of said response units;

determining, at a member's response unit, whether an entered response of a member of said audience is an acceptable response; and

entering a member, who has entered an acceptable response, into a sweepstakes.

Claim 63, line 4, delete "program".

Claim 63, line 4, after "segments" insert --of programs--.

In Claim 64, in the next to last line, change ":" to --;--.

66. (Amended) A method for conducting a sweepstakes for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising the steps of:

broadcasting, by means of a plurality of stations, individual programs from respective ones of the stations;

conveying mechanically or electronically or optically, to said stations, at least one task of a task set to be broadcast to said stations' audiences;

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selecting, by an individual one of said stations, at least one point in time fitting into said station's program structure for broadcasting a task;

broadcasting, by said station, to its audience at least one task at a selected time;

receiving said task by the audience members of said station;

providing to individual audience members a response unit comprising response entering means and means for electronically receiving response criteria defining an acceptable response to an accompanying task, the response unit including a memory for storing response criteria and evaluation means including means for determining an acceptable response by comparing an entered response to accompanying response criteria, said response unit being operable by an identified respondent;

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entering a response by an individual member of the audience;

determining an acceptable response by a response unit for a successful respondent;

providing a central storage facility for successful respondents' identifications;

providing a communications link between said response unit and said storage facility;

communicating a successful respondent's identification to said central facility for storing in said central facility;

entering successful respondents in a sweepstakes or prize event;

determining a winner; and

informing a winning respondent.

67. (Amended) A method of conducting a sweepstakes for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising the steps of:

broadcasting, by a plurality of stations, individual programs of respective ones of the stations;

[transmitting signals conveying response criteria defining an acceptable response to a task;]

conveying mechanically or electronically or optically to said stations at least one task to be broadcast to said station's audiences;

transmitting signals conveying response criteria defining an acceptable response to said at least one task;

selecting, at an individual one of said stations, at least one point in time fitting into said station's program structure for broadcasting a task of said at least one task;

broadcasting, by said station, to its audience said at least one task at a selected time;

receiving said task by members of said audience;

entering, by an individual audience member, a response to said task in an entering means;

providing a central response evaluation facility having a memory for storing response criteria electronically received;

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electronically programming said memory by transmitting response criteria accompanying [a] said at least one task to an evaluation facility;

providing a communications link between said response entering means and said response evaluation facility;

communicating, via said communications link, to said evaluation facility a respondent's response and identification;

determining, at said evaluation facility, a successful respondent by comparing a respondent's entered response to accompanying response criteria;

entering successful respondents in a sweepstakes;

conducting the sweepstakes by randomly determining a winner; and

informing a winning respondent.

68. (Amended) A method for conducting a game for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising the steps of:

broadcasting by a plurality of stations individual programs which differ in program content;

conveying to said stations at least one task to be broadcast to said stations' audiences, a task comprising instructional response criteria to determine an acceptable response;

selecting, by [an individual one] respective ones of said stations, at least one point in time fitting into said stations' program [structure] structures for broadcasting a task;

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broadcasting to the audience of each of said [station] stations a task at a selected time in the course of the program of said station;

providing to individual audience members means for receiving a task, a response entering means, means for receiving instructional response criteria, a memory for storing response criteria, and an evaluation means having means for determining an acceptable response by comparing an entered response to accompanying response criteria; and

associating an entering means identifiably with an audience member.

Claim 71, line 8, change "first central" to --transmitting--.

Claim 71, line 22 delete "second".

Claim 72, line 22, change "a" to --the--.

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73. (Amended) A method for broadcasting and rewarding tasks, comprising:

providing facilities for the broadcast transmission of signals conveying a plurality of programs to members of remote audiences;

formatting program contents and program structures for broadcasting by the operators of said facilities, the formatting of said program providing for at least one interruption in the broadcasting of said programs, so as to create at least one break in the continuity of each program structure and at least one time interval between program portions;

synchronizing said interruptions so that said time intervals between portions of all station programs occur at essentially the

same time;

broadcasting said programs interrupted by said synchronized time intervals;

receiving said programs by members of remote audiences;

providing means for the transmission of signals conveying a task set to members of said remote audiences;

formatting at least one task set for transmission to members of said remote audiences wherein a task set comprises signals conveying a task including a question and accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response including an answer to a task;

providing to individual members of said remote audiences [a] response [unit] units [comprising] each of which comprises means for entering a response to a task and means for receiving and storing response criteria, the response unit further including means for identifying an acceptable response;

broadcasting by said signal transmission means at least one task set to members of said remote audiences, wherein the broadcasting of said task set occurs essentially during a time interval separating said program portions;

entering, via [a] respective ones of said response [unit] units, a response to a task by individual ones of said audience members;

identifying an acceptable response by [a] each of said response [unit] units; and

notifying audience members who have entered an acceptable

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response.

75. (Amended) A method for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the method comprising:

sequentially transmitting, via a transmitter, a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising a first portion having a task and a second portion having response criteria accompanying the task for defining at least one acceptable response;

broadcasting disparately structured programs, via a plurality of broadcast stations, to the audiences of respective ones of said plurality of broadcast stations;

receiving, at said broadcast stations, said first and said second portions of each of a plurality of tasks;

selecting, at an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations, one of said plurality of tasks for retransmission of the [task] first portion of a selected task set to the audience of the broadcast station;

transmitting, via an individual one of said broadcast stations, said first portion [of said task set] of the selected task set at a time fitting into a program structure of said individual broadcast station;

receiving, by said audience members, a program and said first portion of [a] said selected task set transmitted by said individual station, said audience members being tuned to said broadcast stations;

providing means for an entering, by individual audience

members, of a response to a task;

providing means for an evaluation of an audience member's response, including means for receiving the second portion of the selected task set [having the response criteria of a transmitted task set];

entering a response, via an audience member, to a task; and

evaluating an entered response to determine whether said entered response is an acceptable response.

76. (Amended) A method for conducting a game by a plurality of stations broadcasting programs including a task requiring an acceptable response, comprising the steps of:

concurrently broadcasting, via a plurality of broadcast stations, a plurality of disparate programs to members of respective audiences of said broadcast stations during a determined time period;

dividing individual ones of said programs into two or more program segments;

chronologically separating a broadcasting of at least two of said segments so as to create a break in a continuity in respective ones of said programs;

determining at least one time gap between two of said discontinuous segments broadcast by respective ones of said plurality of stations, the occurrence of said gaps at respective ones of said stations being substantially synchronized;

broadcasting, via said plurality of broadcast stations to the members of the respective audiences during one of said time gaps,

a task set comprising electronic signals conveying a task and response criteria defining at least one acceptable response to said task;

providing response units to individual ones of the members of said respective audiences [a response unit], each of said response [unit] units comprising means for entering a response to a task, means for receiving and for storing response criteria and means for evaluating a member's response to identify an acceptable response;

entering a response, by a member of each of said respective audiences, to a task via one of said response [unit] units;

evaluating, at individual ones of said response units, responses entered by members of respective ones of said audiences;

providing means for informing members of respective ones of said audiences who have entered acceptable responses; and

informing members of individual ones of said audiences who have entered an acceptable response.

77. (Amended) A method for conducting a game for members of an audience and for entering successful members of the audience in a sweepstakes, the method comprising:

formulating a question to be answered by members of a broadcast audience;

formulating response criteria to accompany a question and to define an acceptable answer to said question;

providing [a] the question to a broadcast station;

selecting, at said station, a time slot fitting into a program

structure of said station for broadcasting said question to said broadcast audience;

broadcasting said question, via said station, to said broadcast audience at a selected time;

receiving said question by a member of said broadcast audience;

providing answer entering means to members of said broadcast audience, said entering means being associated with an identified member of said audience;

providing at a communications hub, means for obtaining an acceptable answer to a question by a member of said audience by comparing an entered answer to an accompanying response criteria;

providing said response criteria accompanying an answer to said hub;

entering an answer to a question by a member of said broadcast audience;

providing means for communicating a member's answer and identification to said hub;

communicating a member's entered answer and identification to said hub;

comparing an entered answer to accompanying response criteria so as to determine an acceptable answer by an identified successful member;

storing the identifications of successful members of said broadcast audience;

entering the identifications of successful members of said broadcast audience in a sweepstakes;

conducting the sweepstakes; and

informing winning members of a result of the sweepstakes.

78. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

transmitters of a plurality of broadcast stations for broadcasting a plurality of disparate programs;

means for sequentially transmitting a plurality of tasks and accompanying response criteria defining an acceptable response;

means at individual ones of said broadcast stations for receiving said tasks and said accompanying response criteria;

means at said individual broadcast stations for selecting one of said tasks, and means for storing a selected task and its accompanying response criteria;

means at said individual broadcast stations for retransmitting a stored task and response criteria at a convenient determined time;

means at locations of said members of the broadcast audience for receiving a retransmitted task and retransmitted response criteria;

means at locations of individual ones of said [members' locations] members for entering responses to a task; and

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means at said members' locations for comparing a response of an individual one of said members to response criteria to determine whether [the] a member's response is an acceptable response.

79. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter for sequentially transmitting a plurality of task sets, [a task set] each of said task sets comprising a first portion providing a task and a second portion providing accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

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a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving said first portion of a task set and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to members of the audience, wherein an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of said plurality of task sets for retransmission of the first portion of said task set to audience members at a time fitting into a program structure of said broadcast station;

means provided to said audience members for receiving the program and the first portion of a task set transmitted by an individual one of said broadcast stations to which the audience members are tuned;

means provided to the audience members for entering a response to a task;

means for receiving the second portion of a transmitted task set for obtaining the response criteria; and

means for evaluating an entered response of an audience member

in accordance with the response criteria to determine whether the entered response is an acceptable response.

80. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter sequentially transmitting a plurality of task sets, [a task set] each of said task sets comprising a first task portion conveying a task and a second task portion defining at least one acceptable response and scoring instructions;

a plurality of broadcast stations for broadcasting disparately structured programs to members of said broadcast audience, said broadcast stations receiving the first and the second portions of said task sets;

wherein individual ones of said broadcast stations include means for selecting one of a plurality of said task sets for retransmission of the first task portion of a selected task set to members of said broadcast audience;

individual ones of said broadcast stations retransmitting the first task portion of a selected task set at times fitting into program structures of respective ones of said broadcast stations;

means provided to members of the broadcast audience for receiving [the program] a program and the first task portion transmitted by an individual one of said broadcast stations to which said members are tuned;

means for entering responses by individual audience members to a task; and

means for evaluating and for scoring responses of members of said broadcast audience in accordance with said second task portion of a transmitted task set.

81. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter for sequentially transmitting a plurality of task sets, [a task set] each of said task sets comprising a first portion providing a task and a second portion providing accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving said task sets and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to members of the audience, wherein an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of said plurality of task sets for retransmission of the first portion of a selected task set to members of the audience at a time fitting into a program structure of said one broadcast station;

means provided to audience members for receiving [the program] a program and the first portion of the selected task set transmitted by one of said broadcast stations to which audience members are tuned;

means provided to individual audience members for entering responses to a task;

means at a central location for receiving and for storing the second portion of a transmitted task set to obtain response criteria; and

means at said central location for evaluating an entered response of an audience member to determine whether the entered response is an acceptable response.

82. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter for sequentially transmitting a plurality of task sets, [a task set] each of said task sets comprising a first portion providing a task and a second portion providing accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving said tasks and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to members of the audience wherein an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of said plurality of task sets for retransmission of the first portion of a selected task set to audience members at a time fitting into a program structure of said one broadcast station;

means provided to audience members for receiving [the program] a program and the first portion of the selected task set transmitted by one of the broadcast stations to which audience members are tuned;

means provided to individual audience members for entering responses to a task;

means for transmitting responses of audience members to a central location;

means at said central location for receiving and for storing

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the second portion of a transmitted task set to obtain response criteria; and

means at said central location for evaluating, including a scoring of, an entered response of an audience member to determine whether an entered response is an acceptable response for determination of an award to an audience member.

In Claim 83 at Line 23, change "the program" to --a program--.

In Claim 84 at Line 23 delete "the".

85. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a plurality of transmitters for transmitting disparate programs of a plurality of broadcast stations;

a further transmitter for sequentially transmitting a plurality of tasks and accompanying response criteria defining acceptable responses;

means at individual ones of said broadcast stations for receiving said plurality of tasks;

at [said] ^{the} individual ones of said stations, means for selecting and means for storing a received task;

means at [said] ^{the} individual ones of stations for retransmitting a stored task at a convenient determined time;

means at locations of said audience members for receiving a retransmitted task;

means at said members' locations for entering responses to a task; and

means operatively connected to said entering means for receiving said response criteria and for determining whether a member's response is an acceptable response.

86. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a plurality of transmitters for transmitting disparate programs of a plurality of broadcast stations;

a further transmitter for sequentially transmitting a plurality of tasks and accompanying response criteria defining acceptable responses;

means at individual ones of said broadcast stations for receiving said plurality of tasks;

means at [said] individual [broadcast] ones of said stations for selecting and storing a received task;

means at [said] individual broadcast ones of said stations for retransmitting a stored task at a convenient determined time;

means at locations of said audience members for receiving a transmitted task;

means at said members' locations for entering a response to a task;

means at a central location for receiving said response

criteria;

mean for transmitting a member's entered response to said central location; and

means at said central location for comparing a member's entered responses to accompanying response criteria to determine whether a member's entered response is an acceptable response.

87. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

transmitting facilities for sequentially transmitting a plurality of recorded task sets, [a task set] each of said task sets comprising a first portion providing a task and a second portion providing accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

means at each of said transmitting facilities for playing back said recorded task sets;

a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving portions of said tasks and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to members of said audience, wherein an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of said plurality of tasks for retransmission of the first portion of one of said task sets to members of said audience at a time fitting into a program structure of said individual broadcast station;

means provided to members of said audience for receiving [the] a program and the first portion of each task set transmitted by one of said plurality of broadcast stations, individual members of the audience being tuned to individual ones of said broadcast stations;

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means operable by individual audience members for entering a response to a task;

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means for receiving the second portion of a transmitted task set for use of the response criteria of said second portion for evaluating a member's response; and

means for evaluating entered responses of members of the audience to determine whether a response is an acceptable response.

88. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

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a transmitter for sequentially transmitting recorded tasks of a plurality of task sets, [a task set] each of said task sets comprising a task and accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

a taped record of tasks;

a playback facility operatively coupled with said transmitter for playing back said taped record of tasks;

a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving said tasks and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to members of said audience, wherein an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of said plurality of tasks for retransmission of a task to audience members at a time fitting into a program structure of said individual one of the broadcast stations;

means provided to audience members for receiving [the] a program and the task transmitted by an individual one of said

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broadcast stations to which the audience members are tuned;

means provided to members of the audience for entering responses to a task;

a taped record of response criteria pertaining to one or more of said tasks;

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a playback facility for playing back said taped record of response criteria;

means for receiving said response criteria from said playback facility; and

means for evaluating responses entered by audience members in accordance with said response criteria to determine whether individual ones of entered responses are acceptable responses.

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90. (Twice Amended) A system for conducting a sweepstakes for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising:

a plurality of broadcast stations broadcasting their individual programs;

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means for conveying to said broadcast stations at least one [task] of a task set for broadcasting by an individual [station] one of said stations to its audience at a point in time fitting into a program structure of said individual broadcast station;

means at the locations of individual audience members of said broadcast station for receiving a task of the task set;

means at the locations of members of the audience of said individual broadcast station for entering a response to a task;

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a central response evaluation facility having a memory for storing response criteria electronically received, said response criteria defining an acceptable response to an accompanying task;

a communications link between said response entering means and said response evaluation facility for communicating a respondent's response and identification to said evaluation facility;

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means at said evaluation facility for determining a successful respondent by comparing a respondent's entered response to accompanying response criteria;

means for entering the identification of successful respondents in a sweepstakes;

means for conducting a sweepstakes by randomly determining a winner; and

means for informing a winning respondent of a result of the sweepstakes.

Claim 91, line 14, after "at" insert --each of--.

Claim 93, line 3, change "central" to --storage--.

Claim 95, line 6, delete "the step of".

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96. (Amended) A method according to any one of Claims 58, 59, 60 and 61 further comprising a step of rewarding acceptable responses with higher scores with two or more entries into [the] a sweepstakes or prize event, wherein said [entry means] response unit includes [or are operatively connected to] comparing, evaluating, scoring and printing means at the locations of audience members.

Claim 98, lines 2-3, delete "in said".

Claim 98, line 3, after "criteria" insert -- with--.

Claim 99, line 2, change "notifying" to --informing--.

105. (Amended) A method according to Claim 101 wherein said hard copy record is numbered or coded by [the] individual ones of said response [unit] units in accordance with instructional signals, [a] each of said response [unit] units includes means for scoring an acceptable response in accordance with response criteria, programs of said plurality of broadcast stations differ with programs of different ones of said stations providing different television programs, and said method includes a further step of scoring an acceptable response.

Claim 106, line 4, after "task" insert --or a question--.

Claim 113, line 4, after "least" insert --one--.

114. (Amended) A method according to any one of Claims 55, 60 and 61 wherein there is a time required for transmitting a task set [is] to be between 15 and 120 seconds, the method includes a further step of announcing winners of sweepstakes prizes on the air prior to an end of a program presenting a task and, wherein, a task set is part of a sponsored quiz and a task question in the sponsored quiz relates to a commercial, a product, or an institutional advertisement of a quiz sponsor.

Claim 115, line 4, after "signals" insert ---, and delete the period (.) from the following line.

Claim 117, line 2, change "first central" to --transmitting--.

Claim 118, line 4, after "day" delete ---.

Claim 120, line 7, after "signals" insert --.---.

Claim 132, line 6, change "task" to --quiz--.

Claim 140, line 10, change "." to --;--.

O.K. Claim 142, line 6, after "portions" insert --;--.

O.K. Claim 142, line 9, change "." to --;--.

Claim 150, line 3, change "evaluation" to --evaluating--.

Claim 152, line 16, delete "received".

O.K. Claim 152, line ²⁶~~25~~, change "location" to --locations--.

Claim 153, line 24, change "the" to --a--.

Claim 154, line 25, change "its" to --an--.

Claim 154, line 25, after "audience" insert --of said network station--.

156. (Amended) A system for conducting a qualifying event and a final prize event for members of a broadcast audience, the system comprising:

a plurality of transmitters for transmitting chronologically disparate program segments of a plurality of broadcast stations;

means for sequentially transmitting for use in a qualifying event, a plurality of tasks and predetermined accompanying response criteria defining acceptable responses;

means at individual ones of said broadcast stations for

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receiving said plurality of tasks and response criteria;

means at said individual stations for selecting a received task and response criteria;

means at said individual stations for retransmitting a selected task and response criteria at a convenient determined time, said response criteria being timed so as to be useless in responding to a task;

means at each of said members' locations for receiving a retransmitted task;

means at each of said members' [location] locations for entering a response to a task, said means being associated with an identified member;

means operatively connected to said entering means for receiving said response criteria and for identifying qualifying members by determining whether an identified member's response is an acceptable response by comparing a member's entered response to accompanying response criteria;

means for collecting [the] identifications of qualifying members in a central storage facility; and

means for entering qualified members in a prize event.

Claim 160, line 23, change "the" to --a--.

161. (Amended) A method for attracting large audiences to broadcast stations comprising the steps of:

forming a broadcast network comprising a plurality of television and/or radio stations, at least some of said network

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stations broadcasting programs having different chronologic program structures;

consecutively providing to network stations a plurality of tasks, each task having at least two acceptable responses at different difficulty levels;

selecting and broadcasting, by [individual ones] each of said plurality of network stations, a task at a time fitting into [said individual] each station's program structure, the times of broadcasting tasks by said network stations varying with respect to at least some of said stations;

responding, by members of the audiences of network stations, to a task broadcast by [the] a station to which they are tuned at a difficulty level selected by individual members;

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evaluating [said] members' responses to determine successful members having responded in an acceptable manner;

scoring acceptable responses in accordance with its difficulty level;

using caller identification means to identify successful members; and

awarding successful members one or more entries in a common sweepstakes in accordance with a score of the response.

162. (Amended) A method for attracting large audiences to broadcast stations comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of regional broadcast networks, each regional network comprising a plurality of television and/or radio stations, at least some of said network stations

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 broadcasting disparate programs;

providing to individual ones of said network stations a plurality of tasks, [such] each of said tasks having an acceptable response as defined by response criteria;

by means of an individual one of said plurality of network stations, selecting and broadcasting a task and response criteria at a time fitting into an individual station's program;

responding by members of the audiences of regional network stations to [a] respective tasks broadcast by respective ones of said [the] stations to which [they] the members are tuned;

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 evaluating responses of said members[' responses] in accordance with response criteria to determine successful members of regional network audiences having responded in an acceptable manner;

identifying successful members;

entering all successful members of a regional network audience in a preliminary prize event, whereby every audience member of every regional network station has an opportunity of being entered in a [in a] preliminary prize event, thereby attracting large audiences to regional network stations;

determining at least one preliminary prize event winner; and

entering the winners of said plurality of preliminary prize events in a final common prize event.

164. (Amended) A method for attracting audiences to broadcast stations comprising the steps of:

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transmitting from one or more locations a plurality of task sets at relatively short intervals and accompanying response criteria, a task set including at least one question, the accompanying response criteria defining an acceptable answer and a time period allowed to answer a question;

forming a network of a plurality of TV and/or radio stations, said stations concurrently broadcasting their individually scheduled programs, said programs being at least partially disparate;

said stations receiving task sets;

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individual ones of said stations rebroadcasting one or more task sets at a time or times convenient to the station, at least some of said rebroadcastings occurring at different times, wherein said response criteria are rebroadcast following a time period allowed for answering;

providing to identified members of the audiences of said stations means for entering an answer to a task;

providing means operatively connected to said entering means for receiving said response criteria and for comparing an entered answer with accompanying response criteria, so as to determine whether an identified audience member has entered an acceptable answer; and

entering in a prize event an identified audience member who has entered an acceptable answer [in a prize event].

Claim 166, line 21, before "said" insert --,--.

O.K. Claim 166, line 34, change "an" to --said--.

167. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising :

means for transmitting recorded task sets, a task set comprising a first task portion and a second accompanying response criteria portion defining at least one acceptable response;

a plurality of stations broadcasting disparately structured programs to their respective audiences, wherein an individual one of said plurality of stations selects a time during [its] said station's program for transmitting the first task portion of a task set to [its] said station's audience, said time having been selected so as to fit into [its] said station's program structure;

means at the locations of audience members for receiving the program and first task portion transmitted by [the] a station to which they are tuned;

means for entering a response to a task by individual audience members;

means at a central location for receiving and storing the second response criteria portion of a transmitted task set; and

means at said central location for receiving and evaluating an entered response in accordance with response criteria to determine whether it is an acceptable response.

168. (Amended) A system for conducting a preliminary and a final prize event for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising [;] :

a plurality of stations broadcasting their individual

programs, which programs may be disparate;

means for storing at said stations at least one recorded task set of a preliminary event;

means for broadcasting a task by an individual one of said stations to its audience at a point in time fitting into [said station's] a program structure of said one station;

means at a central location for transmitting response criteria defining an acceptable response to [a] said task;

means at the locations of individual audience members of said station for receiving [a] one of said programs and [a] said task;

means at said audience members' locations for telephonically entering a response to a task [at] via a telephone facility;

means for caller identification to identify respondents who enter responses to said task;

a central response evaluation facility operatively connected to said telephone facility having means for receiving said response criteria, a programmable memory for storing response criteria, and means for determining a successful respondent in said preliminary event by comparing a respondent's entered response to accompanying response criteria;

a facility for conducting a final prize event for successful ones of said respondents; and

means for conveying identifications of said successful respondents to said final prize event facility.

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169. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising [;] :

a transmitting facility for sequentially transmitting a plurality of recorded task sets, [a] each of said task [set] sets comprising a task [portion] and an accompanying predetermined response, said facility including a playback device for playing back said recorded task sets;

a plurality of stations having means for receiving portions of [said] tasks of said task sets and for broadcasting disparate structured programs to [their] the stations' respective audiences, wherein an individual one of said plurality of stations selects one of said plurality of task sets for retransmission of the task [portion] of said task set to its audience at a time fitting into its program structure; and wherein audience members receive the program and task portion transmitted by the station to which they are tuned;

means for entering a response to a task by individual audience members; and

a central evaluation facility, including means for receiving an entered response and for receiving the response criteria portion of a transmitted task set, and further including a communicating link with said entering means, and means for evaluating an entered response in accordance with response criteria to determine whether said entered response is an acceptable response[;].

170. (Twice Amended) A method for conducting a game comprising the steps of;

transmitting a scheduled program by each of a plurality of

stations, at least some program structures of said [stations' program structures] stations being disparate;

recording tasks of a plurality of task sets, [a] each of said task [set] sets including a task, such as a question, and an accompanying response criteria including an acceptable answer;

recording a plurality of response criteria accompanying said tasks;

playing back and transmitting [said] recorded ones of said tasks from a central location;

playing back and transmitting said response criteria from a central location;

selecting a received task, by an individual one of said plurality of stations, for retransmission to its audience at a convenient time;

by means of said individual station, retransmitting a selected task during its program;

receiving a retransmitted task, by audience members of said individual station;

providing a central facility having means for communicating with individual ones of said audience members, means for receiving said response criteria, means for receiving a response to a task from individual ones of the members of said audiences, means for identifying an acceptable response by comparison of a member's response with accompanying response criteria, and means for identifying an audience member having entered an acceptable response;

entering a response to a task by an audience member by use of an entering means, said entering means being operatively connected by said communicating means to said central facility;

communicating a member's entered response to said central facility;

by means of said central facility, identifying an acceptable entered response; and

by means of said central facility, informing a member having entered an acceptable response.

171. (Amended) A method for conducting a game comprising the steps of:

by means of each of a plurality of broadcast stations, broadcasting a program, at least some of said stations' programs being disparate;

recording a plurality of tasks;

playing back and transmitting said tasks from a central facility;

by means of said broadcast stations, receiving said tasks;

by means of individual ones of said plurality of broadcast stations, selecting [a] tasks for retransmission to [their] audiences of respective ones of said broadcast stations at a convenient time;

by means of individual stations, retransmitting selected tasks during programs of the stations, times of retransmission of tasks varying between at least some of said stations;

receiving retransmitted tasks at different times by audience members of said individual stations;

recording a plurality of response criteria, a response criteria accompanying a task and defining an acceptable response to said task;

playing back and transmitting response criteria from a central facility, said response criteria transmission being synchronized with an accompanying task transmission;

providing a common evaluation facility having means for receiving response criteria, means for communicating with locations of caller-identified audience members, means for receiving a response from individual ones of said members, means for identifying an acceptable response by caller-identified audience member, said response meeting response criteria;

entering a response to a task by an audience member by use of an entering means, said entering means being operatively connected through said communications means to said evaluation facility;

by means of said evaluation facility, receiving an audience member's entered response;

by means of said evaluation facility, evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria; and

by means of said evaluating facility, identifying an acceptable response.

173. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of an audience and for entering successful members in a prize event[;]

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, comprising:

means at a central location for transmitting by cable or over the air, including satellite transmissions, a task to members of an audience, said task calling for an acceptable response defined by response evaluation instructions;

means for entering a response of a member of said audience to a task;

at a central location, a facility having evaluation means including a memory programmable by response evaluation instructions to determine an acceptable response by a successful member;

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means at a central location for transmitting by cable or over the air, including satellite transmission, response evaluation instructions to said evaluation facility;

means for communicating a member's entered response to said evaluation facility;

means for identifying a member through said member's use of said [responding] response entering means;

means for storing identifications of successful members in a central storage facility;

means for entering identifications of successful members from said storage facility in a prize event;

means for conducting [in] a prize event to determine at least one winner; and means for informing winners of said prize event.

174. (Amended) A method for conducting a game comprising the steps of:

by means of each of a plurality of broadcast stations, broadcasting a scheduled program, at least some programs of said [station programs] stations being disparate;

recording and storing a plurality of tasks at a central location;

by means of an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations, requesting a task for retransmission to its audience at a convenient time;

transmitting a task to said individual station;

receiving said task by said individual station;

by means of said station, retransmitting said task during [its] said program of said individual station;

receiving a retransmitted task by audience members of said individual station;

recording and storing a plurality of response criteria at a central location, a response criteria accompanying a task and defining an acceptable response to said task;

transmitting a response criteria accompanying a requested task from a central location;

providing a central evaluation facility having means for receiving response criteria accompanying a requested task, means for receiving a response from individual ones of the members of said audiences, means for evaluating a member's response by comparison to the accompanying response criteria, means for identifying an acceptable response by an audience member; and means for identifying an audience member having entered an

acceptable response;

entering a response to a task by an audience member by use of an entering means being identifiably associated with said member, said entering means being operatively connected to said evaluation facility;

by means of said evaluation facility, receiving an audience member's entered response;

by means of said evaluation facility, evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria;

identifying an acceptable entered response; and

identifying a member having entered an acceptable response.

175. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a plurality of transmitters for transmitting disparate programs of a plurality of broadcast stations;

means for sequentially transmitting a plurality of tasks and accompanying response criteria defining acceptable responses;

means at individual ones of said broadcast stations for receiving said plurality of tasks;

means at said individual stations for selecting a task;

means at said individual stations for transmitting a selected task at a time convenient to each of said [station] stations;

means at [said member's locations] locations of said members for receiving a transmitted task;

means at said members' locations for entering a response to ^{the} a task;

means at a central location for receiving response criteria accompanying [said] a selected task at essentially the time of transmission of said selected task;

means for communicating a [member's entered] response entered by a member to said central location; and

means at said central location for comparing [a] the member's entered response to ^{the} accompanying response criteria to determine whether [a] the member's entered response is an acceptable response.

176. (Amended) A method for conducting a preliminary game for members of an audience and for entering successful members in a prize event, the method comprising:

formulating a question of a preliminary game to be answered by members of a broadcast audience;

formulating response criteria accompanying [a] the question and defining an acceptable answer to said question;

mechanically, optically, or electronically providing [a question] said question to a broadcast station;

by means of said station, selecting a time slot fitting into [the station's] a program structure of the station for broadcasting said question to the station's audience;

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by means of said station, broadcasting said question to its audience at the selected time;

receiving said question by a member of said audience;

providing answer entering means to members of said audience, said entering means being associated with an identified member;

providing a communications hub means for determining an acceptable answer to a question by a member of said audience by comparing an entered answer to accompanying response criteria;

mechanically, optically or electronically providing response criteria accompanying an answer to said hub;

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entering an answer to a question by a member of said audience;

providing means for communicating a member's answer and identification to said hub;

communicating a member's entered answer and identification to said hub;

comparing at said hub an entered answer to accompanying response criteria to determine an acceptable answer by an identified successful member;

storing the identifications of successful members at a central storage facility;

entering the identifications of successful members in a prize event;

conducting a prize event to determine a winner; and

informing a winner.

177. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting one of a plurality of recorded task sets, a task set comprising a first task portion and a second accompanying response criteria portion defining at least one acceptable response, said transmitter including a playback device for playing back a recorded task set at a specified time;

a plurality of stations having means for receiving portions of a task set and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to their respective audiences, wherein an individual one of said plurality of stations predetermines a specified time for retransmitting the first task portion of a task set to [its] the audience of said individual station, said specified time fitting into [its] the program structure of said individual station, wherein audience members receive [the] a program and the first task portion transmitted by the station to which they are tuned at said specified time;

means for entering a response to a task by individual audience members;

means at a central location for receiving the second response criteria portion of a transmitted task set at essentially said specified time;

means for communicating a response from said entering means to said central receiving means; and

means at said central location for evaluating an entered

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response by comparing it to response criteria to determine whether it is an acceptable response.

178. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

means for sequentially transmitting a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising a task portion and an accompanying response criteria portion defining at least one acceptable response;

a plurality of stations having means for receiving portions of said task sets and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to [their] the stations' respective audiences, wherein an individual one of said plurality of stations selects one of said plurality of task sets for retransmission of the task portion of said task set to the audience at a time fitting into [its] the station's program structure, [the] times of retransmissions varying between the stations, wherein audience members receive the program and task portion retransmitted by [the] a station to which they are tuned;

means for entering a response to a task by individual audience members;

means at a central location for receiving the response criteria portion of a transmitted task set, said response criteria portion being synchronized with transmission of the task portion [transmission];

means for communicating a response from said entering means to said receiving means at said central location; and

means at said central location for determining whether an

entered response is an acceptable response by comparing an entered response to an acceptable response.

Claim 179, line 20, after "entering" insert --a--.

180. (Twice Amended) A method for transmitting tasks and rewarding acceptable responses to said tasks, comprising:

providing a plurality of stations for transmitting a plurality of different programs to members of [their] respective audiences of the stations;

formatting program contents and program structures by operators of said stations for transmission by [the] respective one of the stations, the formatting of said programs providing for at least one interruption in the transmission of said programs, so as to create at least one break in the continuity of the program structures and at least one time interval between program portions of all of said stations;

synchronizing said at least one interruption so that time intervals between portions of all transmitted programs of stations occur at essentially the same time;

interrupting stations transmitting said programs by said time intervals of synchronization;

receiving said programs by members of audiences;

formatting at least one task set for transmission to members of said audiences, a task set comprising a task, such as a question, and accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response, such as an answer to a task;

providing to individual members of said audiences a response

unit, said response unit comprising means for entering a response to a task, means for receiving response criteria, and means for identifying an acceptable response by comparing an entered response to response criteria;

transmitting at least one task set to members of said audiences, wherein the transmission of said task set occurs essentially during a time interval separating said stations' program portions;

entering a response to a task in a response unit by individual ones of said audience members;

identifying an acceptable response; and

notifying audience members who have entered an acceptable response.

182. (Amended) A method for generating large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

providing a first electronic signal transmitting system comprising a network of stations broadcasting program signals to members of respective remote audiences, said stations broadcasting their individual scheduled programs, said [station] stations being equipped to receive and retransmit quiz signals to members of [their] the stations' respective audiences;

providing a second electronic signal transmitting system for transmitting a qualifying quiz to [said] network stations, a qualifying quiz comprising at least one task and response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

formulating at least one qualifying quiz at a central location;

transmitting said quiz to said network stations;

receiving said quiz by said network stations;

retransmitting said quiz by said network stations to members of their respective remote audiences at a point in time determined by individual ones of said network stations, which points in time can vary from station to station;

providing to individual members of said remote [audience] audiences response units, each response unit being associated with an identified member, the response unit being capable of receiving and storing response criteria signals, receiving a response to a quiz entered by an identified member of said audience audiences, and evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria to identify winning members of said qualifying quiz;

entering a response to said quiz by a member of the audience of [a station] one of said stations;

evaluating said member's response by use of a member's response unit and identifying a winner of said qualifying quiz;

providing means at a central location for receiving and storing identifications of said winners;

conveying winner's identifications to said storage means;

providing a prize event facility at a central location; and

entering identified winners of said qualifying quiz in said prize event.

183. (Amended) A method for generating large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

combining a plurality of broadcast stations, such as television and radio stations into a broadcast network;

providing a central facility for transmitting electronic signals, including task sets to said broadcast stations;

providing at said stations means to receive and to rebroadcast electronic signals received from said central facility, said stations broadcasting their regularly scheduled and at least partially disparate programs to members of their broadcast audiences;

receiving said programs by audience members;

formulating a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising a task, at least one acceptable response, and a time period allowed for responding;

providing to individual members of said audience a response unit, a response unit comprising means for entering a response to a task, means for receiving an acceptable response, means for determining acceptable responses by individual audience members, and means for identifying members who have entered an acceptable response;

sequentially transmitting by [at least one of] said central [facilities] facility signals conveying a plurality of task sets to said broadcast stations;

receiving task sets by broadcast stations;

interrupting the programs of individual ones of the broadcast stations at a convenient time, so as to create a time gap between program segments;

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broadcasting during said [station's] time gap of an individual station, by means of an individual broadcast station, a task and time allowed for responding and, following said allowed time, an acceptable response;

receiving the station's rebroadcast task [set] by an audience member;

entering responses to a task by audience members in their response units;

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determining and scoring an acceptable response by a successful audience member by means of a response unit;

identifying a successful audience member; and

informing successful audience members.

Claim 184, line 11, change "a" to --the--.

Claim 184, line 28, change "an" to --said--.

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185. (Amended) A method for conducting a game by a plurality of stations broadcasting programs including a task requiring a predetermined acceptable response, the method comprising the steps of:

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by means of the stations, concurrently broadcasting a plurality of disparate programs to members of the respective audiences of the stations;

dividing individual ones of said programs into two or more program segments by the stations;

chronologically separating the broadcasting of at least two of

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said program segments so as to create a break in the continuity in said programs;

determining at least one time gap between two discontinuous program segments broadcast by said plurality of stations, [the occurrence] occurrences of said gap between programs being substantially synchronized;

a station broadcasting to its audience members during one of said time gaps a task set comprising a task and an accompanying coded acceptable response to said task;

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providing to individual ones of said audience members [a response unit] response units associated with [an identified member] respective identified members, each response unit comprising means for entering a response to a task, means for receiving, decoding, and storing an acceptable response, and means for evaluating a member's response to identify a successful identified member having entered an acceptable response;

entering a response to a task by members in their response units;

by means of said response units, evaluating responses entered by members to identify successful members;

providing means for informing successful members; and

informing successful members.

Claim 186, line 19, after "network" insert --station--.

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187. (Twice Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a

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task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising :

a recording of a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising a task and accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

means for sequentially transmitting recorded tasks of said plurality of task sets;

a playback facility operatively coupled with said transmitting means for playing back said task recording;

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a plurality of stations broadcasting disparately structured programs to their respective audiences, wherein an individual one of said plurality of stations receives and selects one of said plurality of tasks for retransmission of the task to [its] the audience of said individual station at a time fitting into its program structures, wherein audience members receive a program and task transmitted by a station to which they are tuned;

means for entering a response to a task by individual audience members;

a recording of response criteria accompanying said tasks;

means for transmitting response criteria, including a playback facility for playing back said response criteria recording;

evaluating means, and means for receiving said played back response criteria, [and means for evaluating an entered response,] said receiving means being coupled to said evaluating means for evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria to determine whether it is an acceptable response; and

means for informing audience members who have entered an acceptable response.

Claim 188, line 18, change "retransmitted" to --transmitted--.

189. (Amended) A method for conducting a qualifying event and a subsequent prize event for members of broadcast audiences, comprising the steps of:

by means of transmitters of a plurality of stations, broadcasting a plurality of disparately structured programs to [their] respective audiences of said stations;

by means of central transmitting means, sequentially transmitting a plurality of tasks in a qualifying event and, following each task, chronologically spaced response criteria defining an acceptable response to each of said tasks;

receiving said tasks at said broadcast stations;

at an individual one of said stations, selecting a time for transmitting a task so as to fit into the station's program structure;

transmitting by said individual station its program including said task to members of its broadcast audience;

receiving said station program and task by the audience members;

responding to a task by the members;

evaluating a member's response by means associated with an identified member, and operative in accordance with response criteria following a task, to determine identified winners of the

qualifying event; and

entering winners of the qualifying event in a subsequent prize event.

190. (Amended) A system for transmitting tasks and rewarding acceptable responses to said tasks, comprising:

a plurality of stations transmitting a plurality of different programs to members of at least partially different audiences;

means at each of said stations for interrupting the programs of said stations at the same time and for creating a time gap between program portions of said stations;

means for transmitting to said audiences a task and, following said task transmission, acceptable responses to a task in a form unintelligible to humans;

means at locations of audience members for receiving said program portions and tasks;

means associated with identified audience members for entering a response to a task, for receiving and reading acceptable responses, and for comparing an entered response to an acceptable response, so as to identify successful audience members having entered an acceptable response[;]__ and to enable rewarding successful audience members.

Claim 191, line 18, change "by" to --of--.

REMARKS

In the Official Action, Claims 1 - 191 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reasons set